99-32/Corr

JEANNETTE RANKIN

1880–1973

Statuary Hall

United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

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99th Congress, 2d Session Senate Document No. 99-32

Dedication of the Statue of

Jeannette Rankin

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Wednesday, May 1, 1985
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READEX FICHE

99th Congress
1st Session

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 37

ACCEPTING A STATUE OF JEANNETTE RANKIN

Ms. OAKAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 37) providing for acceptance of a statue of Jeannette Rankin presented by the State of Montana for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes, as amended.

The clerk read as follows:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 37

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the statue of Jeannette Rankin, presented by the State of Montana for the National Statuary Hall collection in accordance with the provisions of section 1814 of the Revised Statutes (40 U.S.C. 187), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of the Congress are tendered to the State of Montana for the contribution of the statue of one of its most eminent personages, the first woman elected to the United States Congress, known for her courage and convictions regarding equality and peace.

SEC. 2. The State of Montana is authorized to place temporarily in the rotunda of the Capitol the statue of Jeannette Rankin referred to in the first section of this concurrent resolution and to hold ceremonies on May 1, 1985, in the rotunda on that occasion. The Architect of the Capitol is authorized to make the necessary arrangements therefor.

SEC. 3. (a) The proceedings in the rotunda of the Capitol at the presentation by the State of Montana of the statue of Jeannette Rankin for the National Statuary Hall collection, together with appropriate illustrations and other pertinent matter, shall be printed as a Senate document. The copy for such document shall be prepared under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library.

(b) There shall be printed five thousand additional copies of such document which shall be bound in such style as the Joint Committee on Printing shall direct, of which one hundred and three copies shall be for the use of the Senate and eighteen hundred and ninety-seven copies shall be for the use of the Members of the Senate from the State of Montana, and four hundred and sixty-three copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives, and two thousand five hundred and thirty-seven copies shall be for the use of the Members of the House of Representatives from the State of Montana.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the Governor of Montana.

☐ April 23, 1985
☐ Agreed to by the Senate

☐ April 30, 1985
☐ Agreed to by the House of Representatives

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PHOTO OF RANKIN SCULPTURE IN U.S. CAPITOL

Introduction

Jeannette Rankin was a great American, a remarkable woman, and a proud Montanan. She was a public figure of considerable intellect and a private person of great affection and compassion. Few would disagree with these generalities; many, however, cannot agree about anything more specific. Miss Rankin was also a woman of contrasts. During her long and illustrious public career she was a liberal, an internationalist, and a conservative, a woman with a deep sense of family and a feminist who was an inspiration to many organizations devoted to the cause of peace and the role of women in public life.

Jeannette Rankin enjoyed the respect and admiration of her fellow Montanans. The Treasure State is known for its rugged individualism and independence of thought. On more than one occasion the voters of Montana rallied behind conservative forces at the national and state level, only to send a liberal delegation to the Halls of Congress.

Miss Rankin joins the ranks of 93 other Americans being honored in Statuary Hall at the United States Capitol, including Montana's first entry Charles M. Russell, Montana's noted and colorful western artist. An unlikely pair at first glance, but not necessarily so. Both were creative, individuals with an independence of thought, and a great respect for their fellow citizens.

The campaign to bring the bronze likeness of Jeannette Rankin to the nation's capitol began in the Montana legislature prompted by public interest groups. The legislation was adopted in a Democratic state administration, but assisted in numerous ways by the Rankin family long associated with more conservative political thought. The planning and preparation of the May 1, 1985 ceremony in Washington, D.C. received the generous bipartisan support and assistance of the Montana Congressional Delegation and many displaced Montanans living in the area.

The events of the day reflected the diversity of thought and interest in the same manner. In the morning there was a Congressional breakfast featuring women in the United States Congress who find a great deal of inspiration from Jeannette Rankin's career and the groups which represented the broad range of her interests. At 11 o'clock in the morning over 500 Montanans and friends gathered in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol to pay tribute to Miss Rankin's memory. The event featured remarks from Congressional leaders, State dignitaries, historians, and friends. The afternoon included a congressional reception featuring Montana artists and the sculptress of the bronze likeness of Miss Rankin. Later a gathering of women's organizations paid tribute to Miss Rankin's inspiration and leadership. The day's events concluded with an evening reception hosted for Montanans and friends who talked about the "good old days" and how nice it was that another Montanan was receiving due recognition.

This publication is intended to be a lasting tribute to the memory of Jeannette Rankin, the nation's first congresswoman and a courageous public figure of great vision. The pages that follow attempt to portray one woman's dedication of purpose and the diversity of response that it generated. May 1, 1985 was a great day for Montana, the Nation, and the admirers and family of Jeannette Rankin. All that has preceded this volume could not have happened without the help and guidance of many—to each of you we express our heartfelt thanks.

RAY DOCKSTADER
Coordinator

JEANETTE RANKIN
Photography courtesy of Montana Historical Society

Jeannette Rankin—1880-1973

She was a woman of rare vision. This bronze likeness of our nation's first congresswoman will provide a permanent reminder of a courageous woman who devoted her life to turning a vision into reality. She yearned for a world at peace, governed by democratic principles, embracing equal opportunity and representation for all people.

It was inevitable that her Congressional colleagues would recognize her strength of character, determination and perseverence with the utmost respect. Her efforts helped pave the way for political involvement by other women. It is fitting that she should be so honored.

Jeannette Rankin, a native of Missoula, Montana, was born on June 11, 1880, and died in 1973 one month before her 93rd birthday. She was twice elected to Congress and was the only member to vote against America's entrance into both world wars. As leader of the suffrage campaign that enfranchised Montana women in 1914, she introduced legislation which led to the enfranchisement in 1919 of all women citizens of the United States.

Her leadership and dedication to the improvement and well-being of women and children through legislation and her life long dedication to peace earned her a special place of honor in the hearts of women everywhere.

Mary Theresa Mimnaugh—Artist

Mary Theresa Mimnaugh, artist from Great Falls, Montana, who graduated with honors from Montana State University with a B.A. in Fine Arts, was commissioned by the Montana Arts Council to create the statue being dedicated.

"Terry" was selected for the original commissioning which is installed in the Montana Capitol in Helena, by a jury in a competition which included artists from five states and Canada. A well known artist, she has received numerous awards and commissions. In her thorough researching of Jeannette Rankin she has acquired considerable knowledge of Jeannette and a concern for the ideals she represented.

JEANNETTE RANKIN

DEDICATION OF SCULPTURE

THE ROTUNDA
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
11 A.M.-MAY 1, 1985

PROGRAM

INCIDENTAL MUSIC
A String Ensemble from the U.S. Marine Band

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Honorable Ted Schwinden
Governor of Montana

INVOCATION
The Reverend Jacob David Beck

JEANNETTE RANKIN, THE PUBLIC VIEW
Honorable Claudine Schneider

MUSIC
A String Ensemble from the U.S. Marine Band

JEANNETTE RANKIN, WOMAN OF PEACE
Dr. Joan Hoff-Wilson

REMARKS, MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
Honorable Pat Williams
Honorable Ron Marlenee
Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable John Melcher

PRESENTATION OF SCULPTURE
Honorable Ted Schwinden

ACCEPTANCE
Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

"MONTANA"
A String Ensemble from the U.S. Marine Band

BENEDICTION
The Reverend Jean Collins Fife

Governor of Montana Ted Schwinden addresses an assemblage of friends, relatives and admirers of Jeannette Rankin in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. Seated in the speakers section are left to right: Terry Mimnaugh, Richard Fife, Senator Max Baucus, Ray Dockstader, Mrs. Carol Williams, Dr. Joan Hoff-Wilson, Congressman Pat Williams, Governor Schwinden, Congressman Ron Marlenee, Mrs. Jean Schwinden, Mrs. Ruth Melcher, and Senator John Melcher.

Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel, sculptress Terry Mimnaugh, Governor Ted Schwinden, Congressman Ron Marlenee discussing Montana artists in the Congressman's office.

Remarks of Governor Ted Schwinden

AT THE DEDICATION OF THE JEANNETTE RANKIN STATUE IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL, WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 1, 1985, AT 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME: Almost five years ago now, as Lieutenant Governor, I unveiled in Montana's capitol the first statue of Jeannette Rankin honoring her as "an artist of human ideals." Today as Governor, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the dedication of this second statue to the nation's capitol.

That Jeannette Rankin was a truly remarkable woman is clearly evident in the broad cross-section of people and organizations here today.

To members of the Rankin family—a special welcome. You can be proud to be among the nation's four families who can claim a female relative in Statuary Hall.

I would also like to acknowledge three other women very special to Montana:

—Jeannette Rankin's co-worker and friend, Belle Winestine, who died in Helena just ten days ago at 94.

—Former newswoman "B.K." Bessie Monroe, who at 96 replied to the dedication invitation: "Wish I could accept this splendid bid to honor my friend Jeannette Rankin . . . one of Montana's finest, truest women."

—and finally, sculptor Terry Mimnaugh, whose creative talent so ably symbolizes the strength and determination that was Jeannette Rankin.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Reverend Jacob Beck of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Laurel, Maryland (previously Great Falls) for the invocation.

Invocation

THE REVEREND JACOB DAVID BECK: O eternal God and Judge of all the nations, we remember before You with grateful hearts the women and men of our country, and especially thy faithful servant Jeannette Rankin, who in the day of challenge and decision ventured much and risked greatly for the liberties we now enjoy.

Grant that we may not rest until all the peoples of the whole world share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines.

Help us, O God, to finish the good work begun by Jeannette Rankin. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty, violence and warfare.

And hasten the day when all peoples throughout the world, with many voices in one united chorus will glorify You and bring into being the sisterhood and brotherhood of all humanity. Amen.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: Congresswoman Claudine Schneider has among her other accomplishments the honor of being the only non-Montanan chosen to speak at today's ceremony. The youngest woman in the 99th Congress and the first woman ever elected to Congress from Rhode Island, she carries on in the Rankin tradition. Her personal courage, her leadership on women's issues and her deep concern for our environment has gained the respect of her colleagues.—Congresswoman Claudine Schneider.

JEANNETTE RANKIN: FEMINIST, PACIFIST, LEADER

Remarks of the Hon. Claudine Schneider (R-RI)

It is an honor for me to speak today on this occasion, as we commemorate the life of one of the greatest women this country has ever known. I was never lucky enough to meet Jeannette Rankin, but as I reviewed her life in preparation for today, I was struck by two thoughts—how much I would have liked to have known and worked with this incredible woman, and how timely and important her message remains today, forty years since she last served in Congress.

Jeannette Rankin was a woman of strong convictions and strong words. Articulate, witty and quick on her feet, she was never afraid to speak her mind. Jeannette Rankin knew what it took to get things done, and she did it.

Born on June 11, 1880 on a ranch near Missoula, Montana, Rankin was the eldest of seven children. Even as a young girl, she was fiesty, determined and self confident. According to one story, Jeannette's father was trying to rent one of the houses he owned in Missoula. A prospective tenant was found, but he refused to take the house unless a sidewalk was laid in front of it. Jeannette tried to find a carpenter to take care of the job, but found everyone she asked too busy. So, she bought some lumber, borrowed a hammer and saw, and laid the sidewalk herself. This same initiative and enterprising spirit marked her career in both the public and private sectors.

Jeannette Rankin never was one to sit back and let others meet the challenges of life. After graduating from the University of Montana in 1902, she embarked upon a career devoted to service, particularly to women. An early feminist, she once remarked "Half the people are women and half the people aren't

expressing themselves because they've been told for so long to keep quiet and be good."

Jeannette Rankin was not the type to keep quiet and she was not about to "be good." Over the next fifteen years, she worked as a social worker in New York City and Seattle, served as field secretary of the National American Women's Suffrage Association, led the fight to pass a women's suffrage law in Montana (six years before it became an amendment to the U.S. Constitution), and worked as a seamstress in New Zealand to learn firsthand about the problems of women workers.

Rankin continued her fight for women's rights when she became the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress in 1917. She introduced the first bill to grant women citizenship independent of their husbands, and worked vigorously to obtain equal job opportunities, and equal pay for equal work. She also introduced a bill to provide public instruction in maternal and infant hygiene. Years later, she wryly noted "The government has always offered instruction in the hygiene of pigs."

While her work for women distinguished her early career, Jeannette Rankin is best known for her principled stand on the issue of world peace. Her message was simple—there is always an alternative to war. Four days after she became a U.S. Representative, the House voted 373 to 50, to enter World War I. Siding with the minority, Rankin remarked on the floor of the House "I want to stand behind my country, but I cannot vote for war."

Over twenty years later, after Montana voters had again returned her to Congress, she cast the lone dissenting vote on the Declaration of War Against Japan. "I voted against it because it was war," she noted afterwards.

Her great hopes for peace lay with women. "We could have peace in one year if women were organized," she once remarked.

Even at the age of 78, Jeannette Rankin was still active in the campaign for world peace. In 1968, she organized the Jeannette Rankin Brigade and led thousands of women in a march on Capitol Hill to protest the war in Vietnam.

Jeannette Rankin died over ten years ago, but there is still much to be learned from her story. Here was a woman who was ready to take on the world, ready to fight for a fairer society,

and never afraid to stick up for what she believed was right. "You don't do the right thing because of the consequences," she once said. "If you are wise, you do it regardless of the consequences." In her later years, she remarked, "If I had my life to live over, I would do it all again, but this time I'd be nastier." I think she did it right the first time; I only hope that the rest of us can live up to her standards.

Feminist, pacifist, leader--in both her words and actions—Jeannette Rankin was truly one of the great trailblazers of our time. It is fitting that her statue will sit in this building, to commemorate the unprecedented contribution she made to her country, and in recognition of the doors of opportunity she opened for future generations of women.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: Dr. Joan Hoff-Wilson, Butte native, author and historian, specializes in 20th century American foreign policy and politics. Her interest and research into the role of American women eminently qualify her to speak on Jeannette Rankin's contribution to our society.

Dr. Joan Hoff-Wilson, Executive Secretary of the Organization of American Historians and Professor of History at Indiana University

Jeannette Rankin: "Gallant Warrior for Peace"

DR. HOFF-WILSON: It is fitting that we honor Jeannette Rankin (1880–1973) today because she remains one of the most controversial and unique women in Montana and American political history. As the first woman ever elected to a legislative body in a western democracy; namely, the House of Representatives, and the only member of Congress to oppose U.S. entrance into *both* World Wars, Jeannette Rankin's commitment to the cause of peace and equality grew steadily throughout her long life. From a young participant in the Progressive, Peace, and Suffrage Movements of the early twentieth century, for over the next fifty years she served her country as a "gallant warrior for peace and justice."

The publicity surrounding her two votes against the First and Second World Wars caused great furor in Montana and the nation in 1917 and, especially in 1941, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The media again focused on her antiwar activities in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In fact, her public career surged and waned in twenty-five year cycles because of the three major wars the United States has fought in this century: World War I, World War II, and Vietnam. Whether in or out of the limelight, however, Jeannette Rankin never ceased her fight for peace. Moreover, the media attention she received during these war periods should not blind us to the other historically unique and controversial aspects of her career.

For example, Jeannette Rankin stood out among most other female pacifists before World War I because she did not have an eastern, Quaker background. Instead, she came from that rough and tough western state of Montana, known primarily

in the first quarter of this century for its cowboy and mining traditions. At no time did she attribute any of her reform beliefs or her pacifism to religion. In contrast to most suffrage and peace advocates of her time, Rankin credited her home state for most of her beliefs.

In a 1916 article entitled, "Why the West Leads the East in the Recognition of Women," she stated unequivocally that Montana in particular, and the West in general, created a unique physical environment—one we now associate with frontier or pioneer life—that had a profound impact on both women and men as they struggled to settle the land. Because they shared frontier burdens equally, Rankin thought that western men were more likely to accept the idea of sexual equality and equal rights for women to a greater degree than their eastern counterparts.

Since the five other statues of women in the National Statuary Hall are all from midwestern or western states, there is perhaps some truth to her conviction that the west appreciated its women more than the east. Historians, however, no longer categorically endorse the Turner thesis about the equalitarian impact the West had on its inhabitants. However, Rankin did, and we must honor that conviction by not imposing our own views on what she thought accounted for her strong predisposition for social justice and peace. "Men in the West," she said in 1972 when she was ninety-two years old, "had experienced pioneer ways and pioneer conditions and so they gave women the vote and then women decided to use the ballot to improve things, don't you know."

Unlike other peace-oriented suffrage leaders before the First World War, Jeannette Rankin was not content with simply helping to win the vote for Montana women in 1914. Instead, this petite, yet strong-willed Montanan decided in 1916 to become the first woman the country to run for the House of Representatives. Alone among women suffragists of her generation she was later able to say: ". . . the first time I voted . . . in 1916 . . ., I voted for myself." Montana's early enfranchisement of women made her candidacy for national office prior to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment possible.

Aside from her willingness to assume public office after obtaining the right to vote, another unique and controversial feature of Jeannette Rankin's views made her the first proponent of what today is called the gender gap. Following World War I she remained absolutely convinced until her death that women would play a crucial role in preserving peace.

Long before public opinion polls told us that women in the United States tend to favor peaceful solutions to world problems more than men, Rankin had come to a singular and powerful conclusion—women and peace were inseparable. Speaking in the early 1920s in favor of disarmament she was really describing what we refer to as the gender gap when she said:

> The peace problem is a woman's problem. Disarmanent will not be won without their aid. So long as they shirk . . . something will be radically wanting in the peace activities of the public and the state. . . . I am aware that men are disposed to look down on the temperamental pacifism of women (which in spite of all the exceptions is a psychological fact) as something that the manly man would scorn to imitate. However, there is no other way that I can see in which peace can be realized except through forbearance from fighting on the part of men as well as women. . . . Therefore peace is a woman's job.

From the 1930s through the 1960s she urged women to eradicate war as an instrument of diplomacy. Over the years she advocated a variety of ways for them to accomplish this task—ranging from inculcating their children with what she called "peace habits," to participating in peace societies and antiwar demonstrations, to organizing consumer boycotts in an attempt to influence U.S. foreign policy.

In the last years of her life, beginning in 1968 at the age of eighty-eight, Jeannette Rankin toyed with the idea of running for Congress in order once again to vote against war. In that same year she led the Jeannette Rankin Brigade in a Washington, D.C. demonstration opposing U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Then in 1972 the National Organization for Women chose her as its first inductee into the Susan B. Anthony Hall of Fame. In this third and last cycle of national attention, she remained convinced that women held the keys to peace if only they would implement their power by voting and taking other actions as a group.

Jeannette Rankin's strong views about peace and disarmament were unique for their time because they did not make her an isolationist. Today there is a tendency to equate pacifism and disarmament with isolationism. This should not be done in Rankin's case because she emerged from World War I believing that the United States could no longer isolate itself from international affairs. "We are living in a world," she repeatedly said in the 1920s "We are no longer living in a community, state or nation . . . whatever happens in one part of the world affects every other part sooner or later. . . ."

Jeannette Rankin's commitment to international cooperation stemmed from her belief that the world was becoming interdependent. She subscribed to the view that "isolation is a myth. . . . because all nations are entangled. . . . financially, commercial[ly], and agriculturally." In the interwar years she remained a "nationalist," or one who supported very limited American commitments around the world. She was not, however, an isolationist. She did not support isolation from European affairs while accepting the use of force in the Far East or Latin America like most isolationists in the 1920s and 1930s.

Instead, Rankin remained true to her pacifist ideals: she objected to the use of American military force anywhere in the world, except for the defense of the continental United States. Consequently, she supported international cooperation, but opposed American interventionism. "It is not cooperation with the rest of the world that the American people object to," she said many times, "They object, and I believe rightly, ... to use [of] our military or naval forces in coercing or punishing a nation . . . in which we have no interest or at most a remote one."

As a specialist in U.S. history, I have always been amazed that she held such views and how modern many of them sound to us today. Was it Rankin's Montana background and western upbringing as she claimed, or were there other factors which produced this most unique and controversial figure among American women leaders in this century? We shall probably never have a definitive answer to this question because Rankin was a deplorable record keeper. Documentation for her early formative years is especially scant. However, we do know the following about her life.

Born on Grant Creek Ranch, six miles from Missoula in Montana Territory, she was the oldest of seven children: six girls and one boy. Her mother, Olive Pickering, of English ancestry, left her New Hampshire home in 1878 to become an elementary school teacher in Missoula; the next year she met and married John Rankin, a successful rancher and lumber merchant whose family had migrated from Scotland to Canada around 1800.

The Rankin household represented a curious amalgam of western informality, individualism and self-reliance, along with upper middle class aspirations. As a result, most of the Rankin children successfully pursued professional careers: Harriet became Dean of Women at the University of Montana; Mary an English instructor at the same institution; Edna a lawyer and pioneer in the field of planned parenthood; and Wellington one of Montana's most famous trial lawyers and one of the country's largest land owners.

The ambitions of all the Rankin women were aided in large measure by the open, loosely structured nature of a fast disappearing frontier society in Montana, which provided them with unusual opportunities for careers. It also apparently instilled in them cooperative, humane, and democratic inclinations. All of these conditions subsequently led Rankin to join the social justice wing of the Progressive Movement and from there to suffrage and pacifism after she graduated from the University of Montana in 1902.

We also know that several women greatly influenced her views. Most important perhaps was pacifist Minnie J. Reynolds, a journalist whom she met in Washington state in 1909–1910 when they were both campaigning there for suffrage. It was Reynolds who convinced Rankin that the quest for peace had to be incorporated into the Suffrage Movement. Then there was Katherine Devereaux Blake, a New York school principal and co-worker with Rankin in the 1914 Montana suffrage campaign. She had met Blake while studying social work at the New York School of Philanthropy in 1908. It was also during this time period that Rankin first came across the writings of English sociologist Benjamin Kidd. His works not only convinced her

that the environment influenced people's lives, but also that women were the major civilizing power of the future.

In some mysterious and wonderful way all of these experiences and influences converged in 1916 when Jeannette Rankin decided to run for national office. She campaigned and won on a Progressive Republican platform calling for national suffrage for women, protective legislation for children, tariff revision, prohibition, and "preparedness that will make for peace."

Ironically, on April 2, 1917, the day that Jeannette Rankin was introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives as the first Congress*woman,* President Woodrow Wilson called a special session of Congress and gave his famous speech about making the world "safe for democracy." Four days later on April 6, 1917, when she cast her first ballot in Congress as its only female member she cast it against U.S. entrance into World War I.

On that historic occasion Rankin was joined by fifty-six other Members of Congress. Contrary to popular accounts at the time, she did not cry, although some of the men who cast their antiwar votes with hers did. "I want to stand by my country," she said, but I cannot vote for war. I vote no." Later during the First World War she threw Wilson's words back at him with the statement: "Small use will it be to save democracy for the race if we cannot at the same time save the race for democracy."

Whatever her precise reasons, Rankin's first antiwar vote had an enormous impact on her long public career. "It was not only the most significant thing I ever did," she later asserted, "it was a significant thing in itself." This single act publicly identified Rankin as a pacifist for the first time, and from then until her death fifty-six years later in 1973, she campaigned against U.S. involvement in all wars.

Before deciding to run again for Congress in 1940, she spent the 1920s and 1930s involved in a variety of peace and disarmament organizations. As early as 1915 Rankin joined the Woman's Peace Party. She subsequently belonged to the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, the Women's Peace Union, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), and finally the National Council for Prevention of War (NCPW). With the exception of the Georgia Peace

Society, which she founded in 1928, none of these organizations subsequently lived up to Rankin's pacifist or organizational standards.

Often she opposed their political tactics or they refused to finance her grassroots plans for organizing. For example, Rankin left her position as field secretary with the WILPF in 1925 after it proved impossible to finance her elaborate plans for gaining western members. In 1929, she resigned in a dispute over tactics as a lobbyist for the Women's Peace Union, whose sole purpose was to outlaw war through a constitutional amendment. Similarly, after a ten year association with the NCPW, Rankin ended this affiliation in 1939 primarily because she had become much more criticial than the National Council of the international policies of both Secretary of State Cordell Hull and President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Economic views conditioned Rankin's brand of pacifism between the two world wars. As America became an urban and consumer nation, those who first experienced mass consumerism in the 1920s tended to be more interventionist than those who did not. Rankin increasingly turned away from the consumer society and led a spartan life outside Athens, Georgia, without a telephone or electricity or running water until after 1943. Although she continued to vote and own property in Montana, Georgia became her second "home" and the Georgia Peace Society remained her base for pacifist activities from the late 1920s until its demise on the eve of World War II. From Georgia she pursued a lifestyle without modern conveniences, organized "sunshine" Clubs for local boys and girls to teach them "peace habits," established a foreign policy study group for adults, and transformed the Georgia Peace Society into one of the first peace action groups in the country with perennial attempts to defeat the naval appropriations bills of Congressman Carl Vinson. The Atlanta American Legion Post labeled Rankin a "communist" for these efforts and prevented Brenau College in Gainesville from establishing a "Chair of Peace" for her.

Senator Gerald Nye's investigation from 1934 to 1936 of the role played by the munitions industry in America's entrance into

World War I confirmed Rankin's worst suspicions about the economic origins of modern warfare. Frustrated with the National Council for Prevention of War's increasing support for FDR's foreign policy, she resigned in 1939 and with the backing of Senator Burton K. Wheeler, her influencial family connections, the considerable peace sentiment in Montana, and the support of labor and women she once again won a seat in the House of Representatives as a Republican in 1940.

Back in Congress after an absence of twenty-four years, Jeannette Rankin found that many things had changed. Among them was the fact that there were five other women in the House and two in the Senate. No longer could she claim the title of the only national female legislator. Moreover, the tone and reputation of the peace movement had changed dramatically from what it had been before World War I. Instead of being part of a broadly-based bipartisan faction within the Progressive Movement, it was now considered the bastion of fragmented left-wing sympathizers and ultra conservative Republicans, who espoused isolationism. As a Republican, Jeannette Rankin was perceived as a conservative in 1940 because of her pacifism; in actuality her views on domestic and foreign policy had become more liberal in the intervening years.

Ironically Rankin found herself convicted of conservatism, largely through guilt by association, at the very moment in her public career when she was forced to take stock of how far apart on socioeconomic issues she had drifted from her brother Wellington since 1916 when they both participated in the Progressive Movement. Although he supported her second bid for Congress, their views and lifestyles now differed widely. For example, he lived in obvious wealth in Montana as one of the largest land owners in the country, while she cultivated an image of semi-poverty in Georgia. He ignored instances of personal suffering during the depression, while she embraced the radical cures proposed by Francis E. Townsend and Upton Sinclair. He became a Christian Scientist, while she continued to ridicule all religion. He was embarrassed by their sister Edna's involvement in the birth control movement, while she encouraged such activities. Clearly Wellington had lost his liberal credentials during the

interwar years, while Jeannette had become more and more secure in hers.

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor her private letters indicate considerable optimism about preventing U.S. entrance into the Second World War. As late as November 15, 1941, she wrote to members of her family that "opposition is stronger than ever . . . . so it will be some time before the President will decide actually to create the incidents that will get us into war." December 7, "the day that would live in infamy," ended her optimism, but still Rankin could not bring herself to vote for war, saying: "As a woman I can't go to war, and I refuse to send anyone else." This time she voted alone with 388 Congressmen and women overwhelming her single antiwar ballot.

Once again Jeannette Rankin's antiwar views destroyed her chances for re-election. From 1942 until she re-emerged as a national figure in the late 1960s, she bided her time: ranching in Montana; redesigning yet another "second home" for herself in Georgia; caring for her ailing mother; and most importantly, traveling extensively abroad to study pacifist methods and ideas, especially Gandhi's in India. Although she never lived to see any of her peace reforms enacted, she was a consistent critic of the Cold War, including the Korean and the Vietnam conflicts. Increasingly she associated American expansionism with deficiencies in the country's political economy and with the power of a conspiratorial military-industrial complex.

Accordingly, she revived an idea she had espoused during both World Wars which called for the creation of special "profit removing" currency in time of military hostilities. She also championed other domestic reforms she thought would correct the defects she saw in the American capitalist system.

Although she had been out of the national limelight for over two decades, the Vietnamese conflict revitalized both her spirits and her career. As a "warrior for peace and justice" she ended her long career as it had begun amidst a flurry of travel and public appearances at antiwar and women's rights rallies.

Here in the Rotunda I am proud to take part in the dedication ceremonies for Jeannette Rankin because she continues to

symbolize our best instincts and ideals as a nation and a people. The other statue here of a Montanan is that of Charles M. Russell, the noted western artist. That Montana should be represented by an artist and a pacifist some may think odd, but not those of us from the state who remember our other nationally known political figures such as Thomas J. Walsh, Burton K. Wheeler, Lee Metcalf, and, of course, Mike Mansfield. All these men in their own way were rebels and reformers, and on occasion opposed war, even though they were not pacifists in the Rankin tradition.

It is also fitting that an artist who portrayed Montana's beauty and ruggedness, and a pacifist who captured its independent and frontier political spirit, should stand in this great hall as lasting symbols of the state. I hope the Montanans gathered here today share with me the ideal that we or our children will be as representative of the beauty and independent spirit of the state's past, present, and future as Charlie Russell and Jeannette Rankin, but especially Rankin whom we honor with this ceremony. May her uniqueness and controversial ways continue to inspire us well into the next century.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: It is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce to you Montana's Congressman from the western district, Jeannette Rankin's district, the honorable Pat Williams.

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAMS: Her mother's name was Olive; her father's John. He was born 144 years ago, now, the son of Scottish immigrants. Olive– Olive Pickering taught school in New Hampshire. She met John after separately they had set out for that place out west called Montana. Married, they lived at 134 Madison Street in Missoula, when they weren't at the Rankin's Place six miles northeast of town.

That school teacher mother and the entreprenurial father guided seven children—including their oldest daughter Jeannette toward independence, toward individual courage. "Grace Under Pressure," Ernest Hemingway defined it.

Jeannette spent many days at the place north of Missoula and later at her brother Wellington's place east of Helena. Her hours at work and play at those ranches taught her much about the myth in the phrase "The Weaker Sex".

Miss Rankin taught, for a short while, in Whithall; and at 24 years of age went east, later returning to Montana with a memory burned by the sight of rotting urban neighborhoods, the poor, the disposed.

Jeannette Rankin, who within a decade was to walk the national political stage, was collecting herself.

Off to San Francisco, away to immerse herself in west coast reform. Next, to Seattle and the discovery of women's suffrage—the audicity of political change.

Back to Montana, Jeannette was near her 30th year, now, collecting herself: watching out for others by protecting her own soul. She had walked in the slums of New York City, talked with Boston's poor, been energized by the variety that was San Francisco, handed out pamphlets on the corners in Seattle, lectured from the hood of her Model T and the back of her horse, saw women use the ballot in New Zealand, and watched the children of Butte's widows. Neither Jeannette Rankin nor this nation would ever be the same again.

She realized and brought us to understand the meaning of the power and influence of an individual in this democracy carrying out her conscience. "It is," she told us, "Altogether fitting and proper that a mother be at the bedside of her child, sick with typhoid fever; it is also altogether fitting and proper for the mother to go into the public forum to eradicate the causes of typhoid fever," and America listened.

And Jeannette Rankin said, "The American woman must be bound to American obligations not through her husband's citizenship, but through her own," and America learned.

And Jeannette Rankin said, "as a woman I can't go to war and I refuse to send anyone else."

And America learned that, oh how we learned that.

And she said, "the goal is to make Congress more representative of the people. We worked hard for the right to vote. Now we need to work hard for someone to vote for," America learned.

Miss Rankin was ninety, had been living—working—in Georgia and California. She thought about another campaign for Congress. That would have been good because it was 1970. America needed to collect itself again.

After 92 years, 92 vigorous, productive, activist, controversial, crusading years Jeanette Rankin died, in the spring—this month, May of 1973.

And America remembered her saying, "small use will it be to save democracy for the race, if we cannot save the race for democracy."

Miss Jeanette Rankin had helped America collect itself.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: Next, I would like to introduce to you Montana's able Representative from the eastern district, the honorable Ron Marlenee.

CONGRESSMAN RON MARLENEE: Thank you. Welcome ladies and gentlemen, fellow Montanans, and everyone else in attendence who has this opportunity to witness a treasured slice of Montana history.

It is an honor to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a woman who many would hope to emulate but few, in searching their qualities and abilities, find the tools to do the job.

Diogenes searched the world over with his home on his back and a lantern saying "show me an honest man." Perhaps he was searching in the wrong gender.

However, to be truly honest with others one must first be honest with one's self.

Jeannette Rankin was a woman who epitomized the fierce independence and robust dedication that both typifies and exemplifies Montana. Jeannette Rankin may have been controversial, but there was never any doubt her philosophies sprang from a deep-rooted concern about America and its people, and a sincere desire to do what she felt was right.

While many in her day were opportunists, Jeannette Rankin was an individualist. She favored political responsibility over political popularity. She was outspoken, she was controversial, she was determined. But she performed every task with her integrity intact. She defended every vote with principle.

I can't agree with everything Jeannette Rankin stood for. But I have tremendous respect and enormous admiration for her commitment to stand up for her beliefs.

Who could fail to be proud of the honesty, integrity, conviction and strength that made Jeannette Rankin a champion. I

am proud to participate in this unveiling ceremony. As a Montanan, I'm proud. As a Member of Congress, I'm proud. As an American, I'm proud.

Terry Mimnaugh, the talented Great Falls artist who sculpted this bronze of Jeannette Rankin, will be honored at an open house in my office this afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00. Several examples of Terry's work will be on hand, and all of you are welcome to meet Terry and experience a sampling of her work. My office is located in 409 Cannon. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: Fellow Montanans and guests, we will now hear from the junior Senator from Montana, the honorable Max Baucus.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS: It's a privilege to be here today to honor one of Montana's most outstanding native daughters and one of the nation's gutsiest public servants.

Jeannette Rankin symbolizes what is best about Montana: an independent mind . . . fiercely held convictions . . . the courage to stand up for her beliefs . . . toughness to take on all challenges, no matter how great.

If Miss Rankin were here today, I'm sure she would ask us not to focus on the past, but to look to the future.

She would ask us not just to talk about her achievements, but to build on them.

Miss Rankin was a political activist—par excellence. Her dedication to the women's suffrage movement demonstrates this fact.

She once said: "If I am remembered for no other act, I want to be remembered as the only woman who ever voted to give women the right to vote."

That vote occurred in the 65th session of Congress, in 1919, during Miss Rankin's first term representing Montana in the House of Representatives.

That vote for suffrage was precious to Miss Rankin because it culminated years of grass-roots political activism.

As a young woman, Miss Rankin had worked tirelessly for suffrage legislation enacted in Montana, Washington and California.

During her campaign for suffrage in Montana, she visited every county more than once.

In a May, 1914 letter to another suffragette, Miss Rankin said of her travels:

"I have just returned from a month's trip through seven large counties. I made 26 speeches in 25 days. We elected 20 precinct leaders, and held one regular county central committee meeting."

Few politicians today would be able to match Miss Rankin's energy on the campaign trail.

I am sure that if she had written a book on political, grass-roots campaigning, it would still be a best-seller today.

And Miss Rankin didn't stop working when the suffrage issue was settled.

She found other crusades.

Between her two terms in Congress, she worked in many states for social legislation improving the condition of women and children. A resident of Georgia in those years, she worked for better race relations. In the 1960s, she campaigned against the Vietnam war.

Miss Rankin was a forward thinker. She provoked, she questioned, she prodded. She was always on the move—working for change.

Not all Montanans agreed with her views. But few should disagree that she deserves a place of honor in Statuary Hall.

We need more leaders today like Jeannette Rankin.

We need more leaders with her brand of dedication to excellence and commitment to making the future a better place to live.

Jeannette Rankin is a symbol of what made this nation great, and what will continue to make us great.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: Finally, we hear from the dean of the Montana Congressional Delegation, the State's senior Senator, the honorable John Melcher.

SENATOR JOHN MELCHER: Since 1864 the states have been invited to contribute for national commemoration "statues . . . , not exceeding two in number for each state, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services."

Today the state of Montana dedicates the Treasure state's second statue in Statuary Hall in our nation's Capitol.

The statue is that of a woman.

A woman who was born on a western Montana ranch when the land was still a territory, born of uncommon settlers, a hot-headed Silver Republican and a shy, New Hampshire school teacher, whose five daughters all became university graduates and whose son became the state's attorney general and an associate justice of its supreme court.

A woman who at an early age developed a penetrating sense of compassion and justice, who at nine directed ranch hands to throw a horse and hold it so she could sew up the flesh hanging from a cut on its shoulder.

A woman who taught university-level economics for a while, then studied further in social work and, while working to find homes for homeless children, determined that many poor conditions were the result of bad laws.

A woman who in 1909, at the age of 29, quit her work and volunteered her services to the women's suffrage movement, which took her from the wind-swept prairies of North Dakota to the swamplands of Florida, to the prim cottages of Delaware, to the Pacific Northwest forests of Washington, to the sidewalks of New York.

A woman who replied to charges that a woman's place is in the home by explaining, "It is beautiful and right that a mother should nurse her child through typhoid fever, but it is also beautiful and right that she should have a voice in regulating the milk supply from which the typhoid resulted."

A woman who then came home to Montana and led the movement that got its women the vote in 1914, six years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment gave the vote to all women of this country.

A woman who agreed to run for Congress two years later, explaining that she "never ran for Congress" but "for women's suffrage and against war."

A woman who had to run at large in her first congressional campaign, which meant canvassing throughout more than

145,000 square miles, by rail where the trains ran and where they didn't, on rutted, unpaved roads.

A woman who became the first of her gender elected to the United States Congress, at a time when only 12 of the 48 states allowed women to vote.

A woman who as a Member of Congress voted her conviction and said "No" to war, first in 1917 and again in 1941. In 1917 she was one of 56. In 1941 she stood alone.

A woman who used her first term in Congress to work for passage of a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage, pushed for effective use of woman power during wartime, exposed poor and unfair working conditions at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving and supported the founding of a union there and revealed the use of the "rustling card," a black list method, as the cause of labor problems in Montana's copper mines, to name a few.

A woman who left her first term to continue working for social causes, first for a nine-year period with the National Consumers League, and then concentrating on peace advocacy for 10 years with the National Council for the Prevention of War from 1929 to 1939.

A woman whose name through the three decades became synonymous with efforts to end war and who in 1968 at the age of 86 led 5,000 women in a march against the Vietnam war.

A woman who through her eighties was building a cooperative homestead on her farm, where unemployed, homeless homemakers could live on a cooperative, financially secure basis.

This woman is Jeannette Rankin.

Jeannette Rankin—independent, strong, determined, dedicated, assertive, frank.

Jeannette Rankin—a daughter of Montana, a daughter of the West, a daughter of the ideals of democracy.

Jeannette Rankin—who gave a new definition to courage.

Thank you, Jeannette.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: Montanans, like many Westerners, are not characteristically lavish with praise. That the 1983 Montana Legislature chose Jeannette Rankin to accompany Charlie Russell as our state's second and final representative in Statuary Hall is high praise indeed.

Ours is a young state—a state that still remembers the personal cost and tremendous courage of its early days. We honor Jeannette Rankin for her unswerving commitment to democracy—to the ideal that each person should be free, in her words, "to serve humanity as a separate and distinct individuality." That ideal consistently guided her life, and whether her causes were in or out of season, she pursued them with uncommon integrity, keen intelligence and unflagging dedication.

It is with great pride in the Rankin heritage and tremendous optimism that these values will continue to represent Montana, that I present Terry Mimnaugh's statue of Jeannette Rankin to the nation's capitol.

Unveiling of the statue of Jeannette Rankin in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol, May 1, 1985. Left to right: Governor of Montana Ted Schwinden, Tom Kinney, representative of the Rankin family, Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., and artist Terry Mimnaugh.

Acceptance of Statue of Jeannette Rankin of Montana by Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

SPEAKER O'NEILL: In January 1958, McCall's magazine published an article written by a young Senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy. He had earlier published "Profiles in Courage," and he titled this article "Three Women of Courage." I'd like to quote from that article now:

> Many eyes in the gallery now fell curiously upon a woman—the first woman in history to have been seated as a Member of the House. Jeannette Rankin, Republican congresswoman from Montana—only 36 years of age, an attractive slender figure with light brown hair and clear blue eyes—was already accustomed to the stares of onlookers and the whispers of cynics. She realized that her status as the first congresswoman—at a time when most women were still not permitted to vote—marked her for special attention, however much she strove to be just another freshman member of the Sixty-fifth Congress.
>
> Jeannette Rankin was not a woman who shrank from hard and difficult tasks. Covering every inch of her vast Montana district, much of it on horseback, spending more time in kitchens and parlors than in meeting halls or political headquarters, she had entered without fear in the heretofore all-male world of politics—and done it successfully.
>
> Along with most of her colleagues—and President Wilson himself—she had successfully campaigned on a position of nonintervention. She was a pacifist who in those less complex days did not resist the label of "isolationist" and she did not believe that this war would end all wars.

The New York Times editorialized that her vote was "almost final proof of feminine incapacity for straight reasoning."

While she was the object of scorn, she was indeed a tower of strength.

She proved to America that women in public office could be strong in their convictions, powerful in sentiment and firm in belief.

And she proved that they could not be pushed around.

Jeannette Rankin opened the doors of political opportunity for all American women and as Speaker I am honored—and

very pleased—to accept this statue on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives to become part of the Statuary Hall collection of the U.S. Capitol Building.

Governor Ted Schwinden introducing the Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. who accepted the sculpture of Jeannette Rankin in behalf of the U.S. Congress.

GOVERNOR SCHWINDEN: As we conclude this ceremony today, I wish to introduce the Reverend Jean Collins Fife of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland (formerly of Missoula, Montana) with the Benediction.

THE REVEREND JEAN COLLINS FIFE: Let us pray.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, who gave your servant Jeannette Rankin the love and courage to proclaim peace, equality and justice for all people: Grant to us a like power of love and courage that we who rejoice in her life may profit by her example;

And now, Go into the world in peace. Be strong and of good courage. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all people. Rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dedication participants in front of the Jeannette Rankin statue. Left to right: Senator Max Baucus, Governor Ted Schwinden, Sculptress Terry Mimnaugh, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., Congressman Ron Marlenee, Tom Kinney, representative of the Rankin family, Senator John Melcher, and Congressman Pat Williams.

MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

HONORABLE PAT WILLIAMS
HONORABLE RON MARLENEE
HONORABLE MAX BAUCUS
HONORABLE JOHN MELCHER

MONTANA STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

HON. TED SCHWINDEN, Governor
HON. GEORGE TURMAN, Lt. Governor
HON. JIM WALTERMIRE, Secretary of State
HON. MIKE GREELEY, Attorney General
HON. ANDREA BENNETT, State Auditor
HON. ED ARGENBRIGHT, Superintendent of Public Instruction

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONERS

HON. DANNY OBERG, 1st District
HON. TOM MONAHAN, 2nd District
HON. CLYDE JARVIS, 3rd District
HON. JOHN B. DRISCOLL, 4th District
HON. HOWARD L. ELLIS, 5th District

SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

HON. JEAN A. TURNAGE, Chief Justice
HON. JOHN C. SHEEHY, Justice No. 1
HON. L. C. GULBRANDSON, Justice No. 2
HON. WILLIAM E. HUNT, SR., Justice No. 3
HON. JOHN C. HARRISON, Justice No. 4
HON. FRANK MORRISON, JR., Justice No. 5
HON. FRED WEBER, Justice No. 6
HON. ETHEL M. HARRISON, Clerk of Supreme Court

MONTANA STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

President of the Senate: BILL NORMAN
Senate Majority Leader: FRED VAN VALKENBURG
Senate Minority Leader: STAN STEPHENS
Speaker of the House: JOHN VINCENT
House Republican Leader: BOB MARKS
Democratic Floor Leader: HAL HARPER
Republican Floor Leader: JACK RAMIREZ

JEANNETTE RANKIN STATUE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ray Dockstader, Washington, D.C., Coordinator of Events
Glenda Bradshaw, Helena Coordinator
David E. Nelson, Exec. Director, Montana Arts Council
Susan A. Talbot, Chair, Montana Arts Council
Jessica Stickney, Immediate Past Chair, Montana Arts Council
Sharon Ashton, Great Falls
Diane Benjamin, Billings
Alice Campbell, Missoula
Flo Chessin, Missoula
Margaret Davis, Helena
Frances Elge, Billings
Louise Rankin Galt, Helena
Kathleen Harrington, Helena
Terry Mimnaugh, Lakeside
Jean Mimnaugh, Great Falls
Claudette Morton, Helena
Rick Newby, Helena
Martha Onishuk, Missoula
Virginia Ronhovde, Missoula
Diane Sands, Helena
Ted and Brenda Schye, Glasgow
Connie Skousen, Missoula

Montana Historical Society

"When in a hundred years from now, courage, sheer courage based upon moral indignation is celebrated in this country, the name of Jeannette Rankin, who stood firm in folly for her faith, will be written in monumental bronze not for what she did but for the way she did it."

William Allen White Kansas Emporia Gazette 1941

An Appreciation

The Jeannette Rankin story fits no ready-made pattern, no pre-conceived mold. She was not the militant feminist so often pictured today. She said that men and women were "like the right hand and the left hand—they need each other." She liked the men and the men liked her.

She spoke of "mothers and babies," especially on remote ranches, more than she did of professional women. In discussing women's role in politics she said that "it is altogether fitting and proper that a mother be at the bedside of her child sick with typhoid fever; it is also altogether fitting and proper for the mother to go into the public forum to eradicate the causes of typhoid fever."

She was not the extreme pacifist some would picture, hating all the military. She said she admired President Eisenhower because he warned against the "military-industrial complex," and he spoke of war as a method to be "outlawed."

She was a fighting humanitarian who detested and found despicable the profits made by the "munitions-makers" on both sides of the wars. She befriended the "used" soldiers, considering them the victims of the stupidity of war.

When in Congress, she earned the strong respect of so many of her colleagues, because she was an adroit and forthright legislator.

She introduced the bill in 1919 which led to the enfranchisement of all U.S. women citizens, though it was passed when she was no longer in Congress. She secured the right of American women, who had married foreigners to retain their American citizenship. She helped to reduce the staggering maternal and infancy deathrate in Montana and nationally through securing the services of the Children's Bureau. She pushed for legislation banning the commercial use of child labor. She induced the U.S. Treasury Department to improve working conditions at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Told that the change would take months, she persevered and achieved it in a day.

Capitol newspapers called it "the swiftist change ever made in Washington."

The Washington Star, in an editorial January 23, 1968, again praised her at the time of her march protesting the Vietnam war. "However one may disagree with her now—when all else fails, everyone must nevertheless respect her feminine consistency in her passion for an end of the killing."

> Her brigade set new records for peace demonstrations. Hers was by far the most orderly that has been seen here or anywhere else, with the members reminding each other not to litter the streets but to save waste papers for the baskets provided. Her statement was also a model of simplicity and directness. Without a single "whereas," Miss Rankin spoke straight to her point. No one can wish her less than eventual success in her quest for peace.

She followed no pattern; she fits no mold. She was first and last a convinced and inspired humanitarian.

MRS. ANDREAS RONHOVDE
Missoula, Montana

Mrs. Virginia Ronhovde is a niece of Jeannette Rankin and whose mother was Congresswoman Rankin's administrative assistant during her first term in the United States House of Representatives.

Honorable Jeannette Rankin

May 1, 1985, was a great and memorable day for the family, admirers, and friends of Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin. Jeannette returned to Washington—a beautiful statue dedicated in the Rotunda of our Nation's Capitol. The dedication and related events constituted an affirmation and a reinforcement of her lifelong crusade for peace, justice, and equality.

While Miss Rankin is most remembered for voting against two world wars, her effectiveness as a Member of Congress for Montana and our country should not be overlooked. During her second term, 1941 and 1942, her influence and power were out of all proportion to her being a freshman, minority member. During her years of lobbying for peace, between her two terms, she became well known among Government officials and Members of Congress. This, coupled with her established credibility, wide spectrum of knowledge of national and international affairs, engaging personality, speaking ability, and hard work, resulted in outstanding accomplishments in legislation and in Departmental intercession.

Jeannette Rankin crusaded for the betterment of all. She was ahead of her time in social and political ideology. In 1941, when discussing farm problems, she stated, "There is no such thing as a surplus as long as there are hungry people in the world." Were she here today, she would be working for "people" programs and against nuclear proliferation.

FRANCES ELGE, Billings, Montana
Administrative Assistant, 1941-42

Re: Jeannette Rankin

August 31st. 1972

Miss Rankin had flown from Carmel, California for an interview with Ralph Nader and after returning with me to my home in Chevy Chase, she seemed to be reflecting on her whole life's work and said "Wouldn't it be too bad if we left this world and hadn't done all we could for peace." This was her last trip to Washington. She died May 18, 1973, twenty-nine days before her 93rd birthday, June 11th.

ROSA NELL SPRIGGS (Mrs. Kahl K.)
7005 Meadow Lane
Chevy Chase, Md. 20815

Jeannette Rankin at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. with Mr. Pickering, Superintendent of Capitol Grounds and Buildings.
Montana State Historical Society

JEANNETTE RANKIN—A TIME LINE

By

M. S. DAVIS—League of
Women Voters

1880	June 11, Jeannette Rankin was born in Missoula to John (d. 1904) and Olive Pickering Rankin (d. 1947) who were married August 1879. Jeannette Rankin was the first of seven children who included her one brother Wellington four years younger than she. Her sister Edna R. McKinnon was a pioneer advocate of birth control.
1902	Graduated from University of Montana in Biology. An indifferent student.
1904	Boston MA for six months, Wellington a student at Harvard from which he received his LLB in 1910.
1908	Settlement house work in San Francisco, CA.
1908	NY School of Philanthropy, fall until spring 1909.
1909	Spokane, WA Children's Home Society.
1910	Worked on successful Washington state suffrage campaign.
1911	Feb. 1, 2:30 pm, Jeannette Rankin spoke to the Montana Legislature as a pro-suffrage speaker sponsored by the Equal Franchise Society. Purple violets decorated the House chambers.
1911	Summer, worked for the NYC suffrage group which was allied with Carrie Chapman Catt (founder of the League of Women Voters) and the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) established 1869.
1911	Late summer was "loaned" to the California Equal Suffrage Association. Travelled also to Ohio, Florida and Michigan.
1913	Field secretary of NAWSA, suffrage gained in North Dakota.
1913	March 3, on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration, NAWSA under the leadership of Alice Paul (founder of the National Women's Party) organized a parade of 5,000 suffragettes. Jeannette Rankin joined the Montana delegation which wore American Indian costumes.
1913	MT Legislature approves sending suffrage referendum to the people.

1914 Jeannette Rankin quits NAWSA, returns to Montana for the suffrage campaign. She travels 9,000 miles speaking and organizing. Financial support comes from James & Harriet Laidlaw, NY suffragists.

1914 Sept. 25, Jeannette Rankin and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, NAWSA president, lead a parade in Helena to the state fair grounds.

1914 Nov. 3, women's suffrage passes in MT, 41,302 to 37,588 votes.

1915 Jeannette Rankin lobbies in Washington, DC and travels to Nashville, TN.

1915 June, Jeannette Rankin travels by ship from Seattle to New Zealand. Works in NZ as a seamstress.
MT suffragists organize Good Government Clubs.

1916 Spring, returns to the USA.

1916 July 11, Butte, Jeannette Rankin announces her candidacy for Congress as a Republican. Wellington is campaign manager. Belle Fligelman (Winestine) retired from the *Montana Progressive*, did the PR including penny postcard and phone campaigns. Jeannette Rankin ran in the general election against the Democratic incumbent John B. Evans, two Socialists, one other GOP, and one other Democrat, "I need only every other vote and then one to make a majority." (Evans was also elected, two at-large seats).

1916 Nov. 7, won election to US House of Representatives, 7,507 vote margin.

1916 Jeannette Rankin shied away from the post-election media blitz.

1916-17 Speaking contract for $500 per talk had a cancellation clause if Jeannette Rankin voted against war (Lee Kedick Speaking Bureau). Jeannette Rankin's tour was cut short by a special session of Congress called for April 2, 1917 instead of the scheduled convening date of December 3, 1917.

1917 Washington, DC apartment at 2030 California, Capitol office in Room 332.

1917 April 2, send-off breakfast for Jeannette Rankin at the Shoreham Hotel attended by Catt, Paul, Laidlaw and Maude Wood Park (First LWV president) among a group of 150 women leaders.

1917	April 6 (Good Friday), 3:00 a.m. vote taken on the War Resolution in the House. (Senate vote 82-6 on April 4, 1917) Jeannette Rankin's first vote as a Congressional member. "I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war. I vote 'no'." Jeannette Rankin's was one of 50 "no" votes in the House.
1917	Jeannette Rankin voted for declarations of war against Austria-Hungary and supported war-related legislation except for the Espionage Act of 1917.
1917	One-year contract at $100 per week for a column for the Chicago Sunday Herald. Ghost written by Belle Fligelman (Winestine).
1917	Rankin-Robertson bill dealing with venereal disease, family planning and child-care failed to pass. Jeannette Rankin uncovered and aired illegal working conditions at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Embroiled herself in the Irish independence question.
1918	Montana's eastern and western Congressional districts were established. Jeannette Rankin lost GOP US Senate primary 18,805 to 17,091, and ran in the general election as a National Party candidate (Walsh 46,160; GOP 40,229, and Jeannette Rankin 26,013).
1919	Spring—Women's International Conference for Permanent Peace, Zurich WILPF.
1920	Federal suffrage constitutional amendment (19th) is enacted giving women the right to vote.
1920	Jeannette Rankin is a Washington DC lobbyist and field secretary for the National Consumers League. Joins ACLU.
1920-24	Lobbyist for women's and children's issues.
1924	Helped Wellington with his narrowly lost US Senate campaign.
1924	December, spent $500 for 64 acres and a rustic dwelling in Bogart, GA where Jeannette Rankin lived in a highly self-sufficient style.
1925	Field secretary for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
1928	Georgia Peace Society organizer and secretary. Advocated arbitration as an alternative to war and the eradication of the causes of war ("cure" war).
1929	Women's Peace Union lobbyist, $300 per month for six months.

1930	National Council for the Prevention of War, Frederick Libby, president. Jeannette Rankin had a ten-year association with this Council which provided an irregular stipend and PR for her activities.
1934	American Legion challenged Jeannette Rankin's influence and connections with Brennau College, GA, and its proposed Department of Peace.
1935	Jeannette Rankin sues Macon Evening News after being accused of Communism and anti-Americanism. The suit is settled for $1,000 and a retraction. Bogart farm burns, buys ($300) 33 acres and cottage in Watkinsville.
1936	Her efforts to unseat Carl Vinson in GA are thwarted.
Mid-30's	Jeannette Rankin argues the links between the armed services and private industries to encourage war and waste. "The militaristic system forced an economic problem on us," not vice versa, she states, before the 1933 House Foreign Affairs Committee. Traffic in munitions was a cause of war, anti-profit bills during wartime were shams and delusions, and armies were maintained not for defense but for foreign invasion to protect American investments abroad, she argued.
1937	April, radio speech on the 20th anniversary of her "No" war vote.
1937	October to May, 1938, Jeannette Rankin made 149 "peace propaganda" speeches.
1939	December, National Council to Prevent War cuts Jeannette Rankin out of its budget after a long simmering, mutual feud over money, exploitation and lobbying techniques.
1940	Spring, Jeannette Rankin returns to Montana.
1940	June 5, Jeannette Rankin files for US Congress in the western district with the endorsement of prominent politicians. "Prepare to the limit for defense, but keep our men out of Europe," she advised. Jeannette Rankin beat the incumbent Jacob Thorkelson in the primary and Democrat Jerry O'Connell (56,616 to 47,352) in the general election. Jeannette Rankin voted for Socialist Norman Thomas each time he ran for president.
1941	Jeannette Rankin and Sen. Burton K. Wheeler oppose Lend Lease bill.

1941	Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor is invaded by the Japanese. Jeannette Rankin hears the news in Wash. DC but takes the train for Detroit. At Pittsburg she turns around when she hears FDR will address Congress at noon, Dec. 8. War (WW II) resolution passes Senate 82-0 and House 388-1. Jeannette Rankin casts only "No" saying "As a woman I can't go to war and I refuse to send anyone else." Public reaction is swift and unfriendly. Wellington says "Montana is 110 percent against you."
1941	Dec. 11, by saying "Present" Jeannette Rankin voted "No" on entering the war against Germany and Italy. Four thousand Christmas cards with "Peace on Earth" message are destroyed on Wellington's advice.
1942	December 8, "Some Questions About Pearl Harbor" by Jeannette Rankin is published in the Congressional Quarterly. She sees a conspiracy between Churchill and FDR.
1942	Nov., Mike Mansfield is elected Montana Western District Congressman.
1943-46	Autumn, short stay in Turkey then travels to India. Jeannette Rankin sought to meet Gandhi but failed, did meet with Nehru. This was the first of five trips to India and three world tours underwritten by Wellington for Jeannette Rankin. Jeanette Rankin interested in non-violent social change. Summers in Montana. Influenced by Benjamin Kidd's theories equating peace and the gender gap, had read "The Science of Power" c. 1918.
1947	In Montana to nurse dying mother.
1949	Went to India for the World Pacifist Conference. Took her Ford and drove from SE Madras to Lahore, Pakistan.
1958	John F. Kennedy wrote "Three Women of Courage" for McCall's Magazine and Jeannette Rankin was one of the three. She supported Nixon.
1966	Brother Wellington D. Rankin died.
1967	May, Atlantans (GA) for Peace speech signals Jeanette Rankin's return to public life.
1967	October, the Jeannette Rankin Brigade protesting Vietnam is organized.
1968	January 15, 11:30 a.m., 5,000 women march from Union Sta-

tion to the U.S. Capitol via Louisiana Avenue in the snow. Participants included Coretta Scott King and Dagmar Wilson, founder of the Women's Strike for Peace. Jeanette Rankin and 16 others were in a delegation which met with Speaker John McCormack and Sen. Mike Mansfield.
The other marchers rallied in Union Square while Judy Collins sang, etc.

1960's — Lived in a "Shady Grove," GA shanty while the main brick house was occupied by caretakers Mr. and Mrs. Wonder Robinson.

1960's — Jeanette Rankin designed and built the Round House in Georgia. The ten wedge-shaped rooms around a common area never attracted the older, female residents she had planned for.

1969 — Feb. 26, Rep. Emmanuel Cellar invited Jeannette Rankin to speak to the House Judiciary Committee on election reform.

1969 — October 15, spoke at the U. of GA Vietnam war moratorium rally to an audience of 1,500.

1970 — March, broke hip on drug store steps.

1970 — June 11, celebrates 90th birthday at the Rayburn Office Bldg., DC.

1972 — February, Jeannette Rankin becomes a member of the NOW Hall of Fame.

1972 — Jeannette Rankin addresses Montana state constitutional convention. March 14.

1973 — May 18, dies in California after months of a serious ailment.

AFTERWARDS:

1978 — August 23, letter from Roger Baldwin, American Civil Liberties Union, "Miss Rankin's special distinction was her political courage, her fidelity to a pacifist conviction, her integrity, her courage, her charm, and her broad appeal to women especially." (Letter to Kevin Giles)

Jeannette Rankin believed in peace as a progressive goal. Her interest in democratic reform also spanned 60 years. She supported initiatives, referendums, recall, multi-member Congressional districts with the voter prioritizing all the choices, a unicameral Congress, direct election of the president without party influence, abolishing the Electoral College, open presidential ballots with the names rotated, and reducing the influence of the military-industrial complex.

Rankin was not a prolific writer and she did not develop her views in an intellectual context. She came to rue this lack of written record on her life, her beliefs, and her accomplishments. Her strong suits were organizing, speaking, enabling, and touching the public sentiment – all rather transitory gifts. Hence her value as a public figure is largely symbolic and based to a great degree on her election in 1916 as the first woman to serve in Congress.

Time line compiled by Margaret S. Davis, primarily from the book ***"Flight of the Dove"*** *by Kevin Giles.*

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